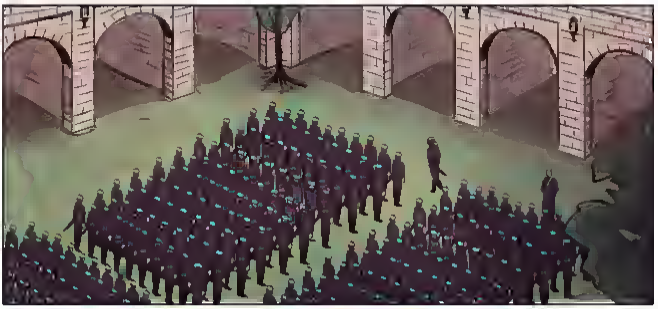
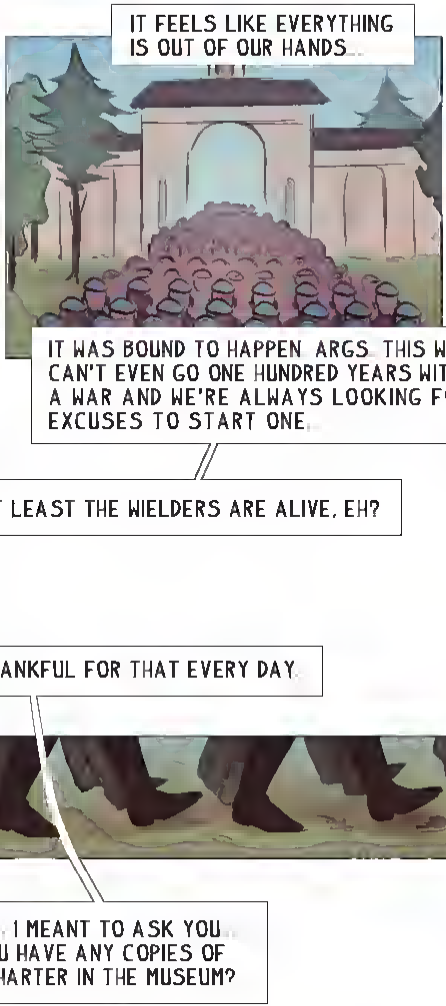
UNDER THE AEGIS

BY VIMEODIEE



SO, IT'S HAPPENING, THEN. WE'RE SENDING THE TROOPS OUT.

COUNCILWOMAN ALLURA DOESN'T WANNA LEAVE IT TO CHANCE. BETTER TO HAVE THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE PROTECTED.


IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING IS OUT OF OUR HANDS...
IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN. ARGS. THIS WORLD CAN'T EVEN GO ONE HUNDRED YEARS WITHOUT A WAR AND WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR EXCUSES TO START ONE...
AT LEAST THE WIELDERS ARE ALIVE, EH?
AND I'M THANKFUL FOR THAT EVERY DAY.
DEENA, I MEANT TO ASK YOU... DO YOU HAVE ANY COPIES OF THE CHARTER IN THE MUSEUM?

CHARTER? YEAH, I GOT A COUPLE OF UNFINISHED DRAFTS. WHATCHA NEED?

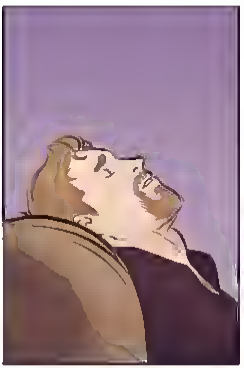
THE SIGNED COPY. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE ARCHIVES BUT IT WAS REPLACED WITH AN OLD MAP. I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D DISPLAYED IT IN THE MUSEUM OR SOMETHING.

NOPE. NOT ME. I'M PRETTY SURE I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN YEARS. I CAN HAVE A LOOK IF IT'S IMPORTANT?

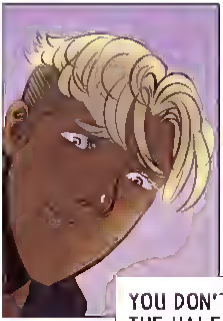
THANKS DEENA. IT MIGHT NOT EVEN *BE* THAT IMPORTANT...

BUT I REALLY DISLIKE THE FACT THAT IT'S MISSING.

I NEED HELP, AGATHA...



HEY...ROUGH DAY?


YOU DON'T KNOW
THE HALF OF IT

HOW'S ALLURA DOING?

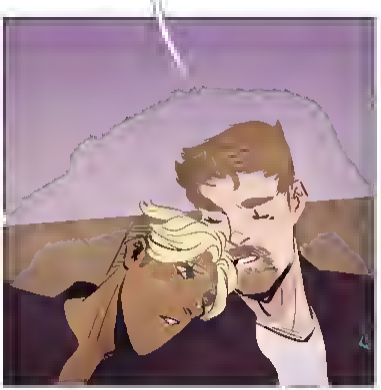
NOT GOOD. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SHE LOVES THIS CITY, AND IT'S KILLING HER TO ACCEPT WHAT THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR WILL DO TO IT. ANY WORD FROM MATT?

SHE'S OKAY... A LITTLE TENSE

CYRUS... I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MAN THIS MAKES ME...

BUT I'M THINKING ABOUT ASKING THE WIELDERS TO CONSIDER GOING HOME. RETREAT FOR A WHILE. SETTLE THINGS DOWN WITH THEIR PEOPLE.

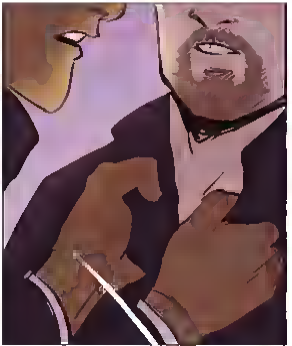
IT GOES AGAINST WHAT WE'VE ALL TRADITIONALLY BEEN TAUGHT. BUT PLUNGING THE WORLD INTO ANOTHER WAR ISN'T WHAT THE FIRST WIELDERS WOULD HAVE WANTED EITHER—



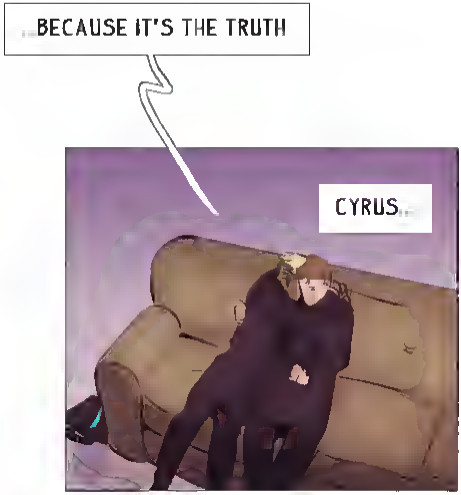
THAT JUST MAKES YOU A GOOD, CARING MAN, ARGUS. YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF AND TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYONE.

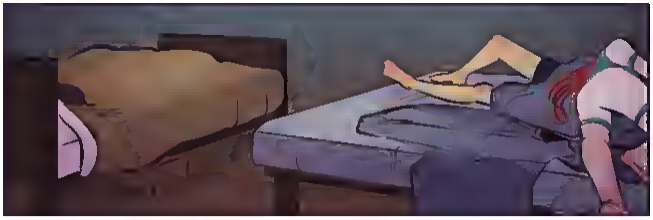
AND WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, I'LL STILL LOVE YOU FOR IT

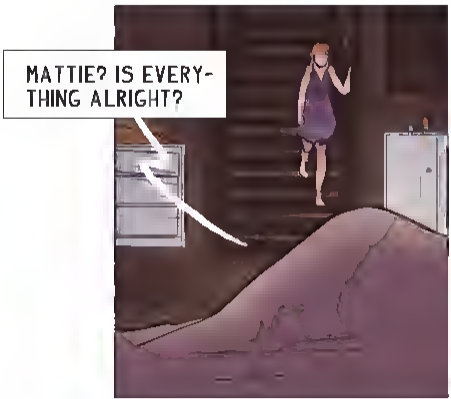
I DON'T EVEN KNOW--



ARGUS, LISTEN TO ME... YOU DESERVE SO MUCH. TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THAT I LOVE YOU AND I BELIEVE IN YOU


BECAUSE IT'S THE TRUTH
CYRUS




MATTIE? IS EVERY-
THING ALRIGHT?

I--I CAN'T SLEEP. CAN I SIT WITH YOU?

OF COURSE YOU CAN.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?

OH, JUST NOTES ON ROUTES INTO BASILEIA AND THE SYNEDRION. I WANT TO GO OVER THEM WITH ARGUS AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND SHILOH'S STAFF QUICKER.

NOW...

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S--IT'S JUST THINKING ABOUT SHILOH'S DREAM OR--OR VISION THE RITUAL WE HAVE TO DO I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN--

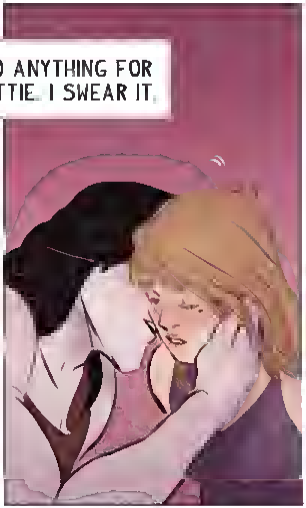
MATTIE, IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO DO. YOU KNOW THAT—
I DON'T WANT ANY-THING TO HAPPEN--
--WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT'S LIKE TO *BE* WITH YOU.

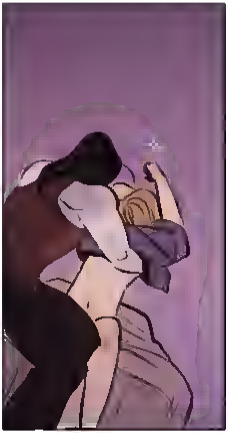
I WANT TO KNOW. BUT IF-IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, I--
OF COURSE I WANT TO I JUST DON'T KNOW--

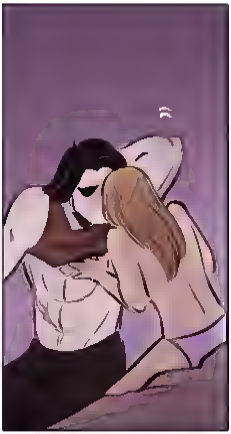
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING ABOUT BEING WORRIED YOU'LL HURT ME. DORIAN, I'LL GO RIGHT BACK UPSTAIRS!
TH-THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT THING TO ASK!
NO! YOU JUST TOOK ME BY SURPRISE! AND I *AM* WORRIED ABOUT HURTING YOU...

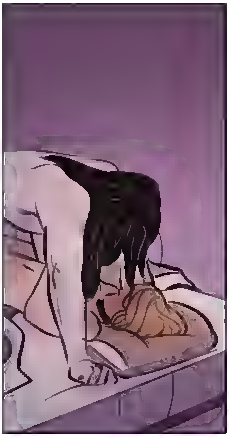
SO IF YOU WANT TO STOP AT ANY MOMENT... I WILL STOP FOR YOU.

I... I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MATTIE... I SWEAR IT.





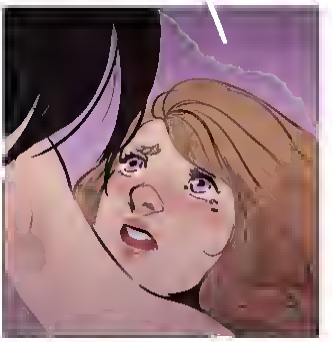


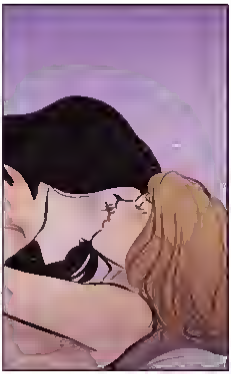


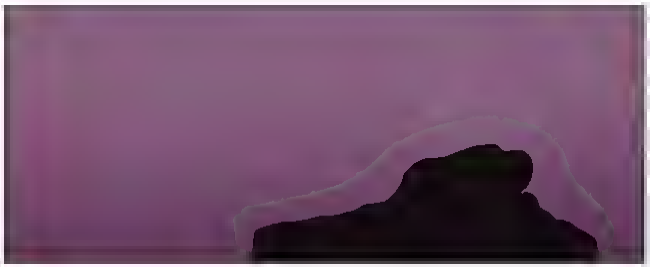
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

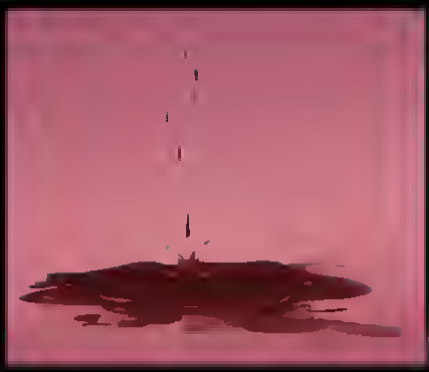
I...I WANT TO SEE ALL OF YOU.

...PLEASE.



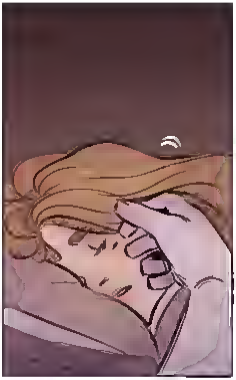


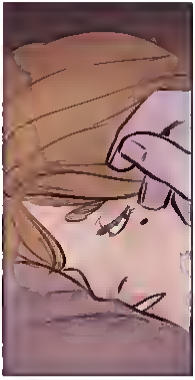


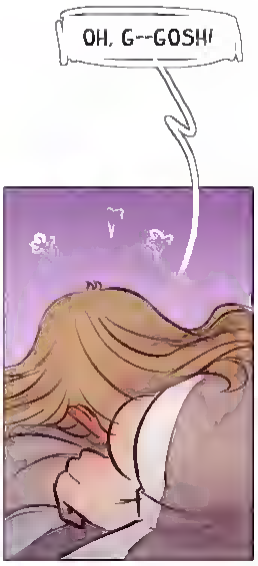


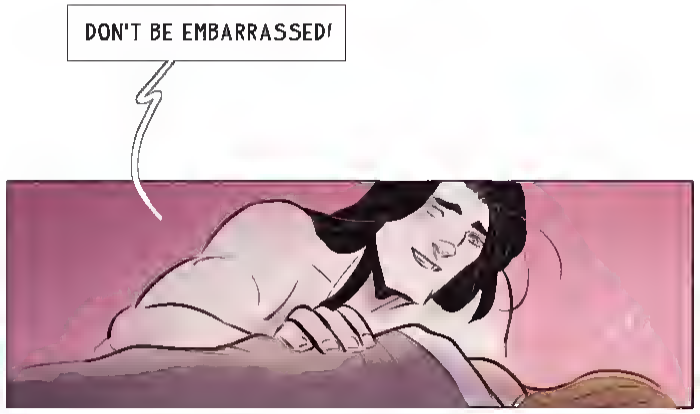
GASP!

NOT TONIGHT, *PLEASE*...






OH, G--GOSH!

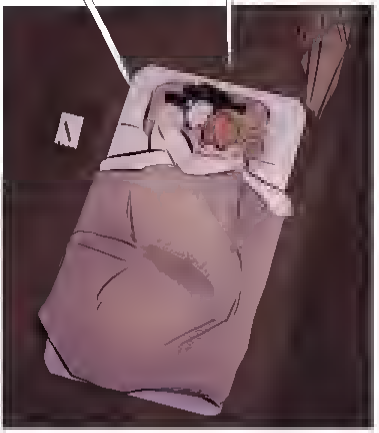

DON'T BE EMBARRASSED!

DID THE NIGHTMARES WAKE YOU AGAIN? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

I AM NOW. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

DIFFERENT? THE SAME? IT-- IT WAS GOOD. V-VERY GOOD

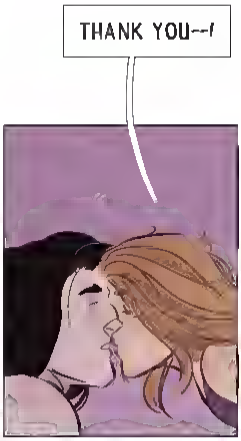
I'M GLAD...



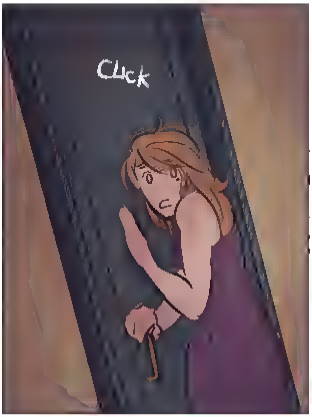
IT'LL BE DAWN SOON, THE OTHERS WILL BE WAKING. BUT IF YOU'D RATHER SLEEP HERE WITH ME--

OH NO. GAWAIN'S UP WITH THE SUN! I--I DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE HIS QUESTIONS JUST YET--!

GRAB


THANK YOU--!

I--I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT!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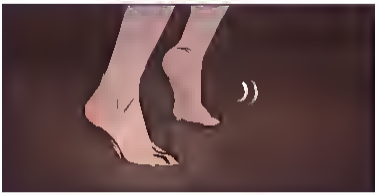
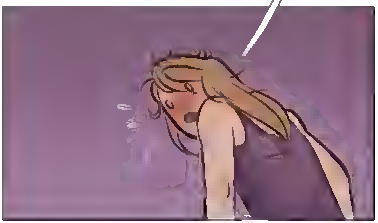
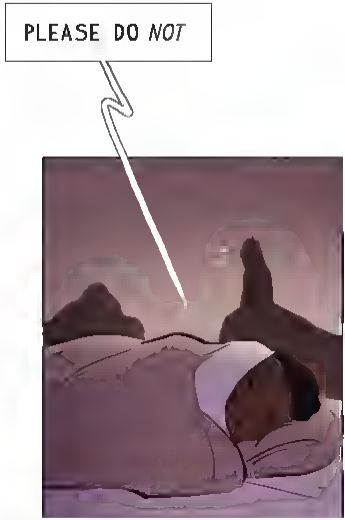


SO...EVERYTHING WORKS, THEN.

OH!...UHHHH, UM...Y-YES,
W-WORKS JUST F-FINE--




PLEASE DO *NOT*